ROXBY BLOCKADE HANDBOOK

AUG.19
1984

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INTRODUCTION

The second national C.N.F.A. blockade of Roxby Downs will differ from the last in several fundamental ways. The most significant difference is the political context. As Labor governments have ignored their policies and dispelled any possibility of an anti-uranium government, the independent anti-uranium movement has grown, consolidated and is very active.

The experiences of the Honeymoon occupation in 1982, and the 1983 blockade at Roxby have significantly increased our skills. The strategies and tactics for this blockade are more refined, as reflected in our civil disobedient, non-violent approach. However, as we have become more organised so too will have our opposition — the mining corporations and the police force. The recent actions at Port Adelaide gave us a taste of police strategy to harass us. Verbal abuse, threats and exaggerated charges were encountered by protestors, and one women was bitten by a police dog. There is no longer a veil of politeness between the police and ourselves. Blockaders need to be aware that their mere presence at Roxby may be enough to be arrested (see Legal section.) We need not be paranoid, but we do need to understand the implications and consequences of our actions.

It is therefore crucial for Blockaders to participate in Preparations and Tactics for this blockade. We must all be prepared. Having been to other actions, or the last Roxby blockade is not enough. All blockaders need to be familiar with the organisation and strategies of this blockade. Without this our ability as a movement to effect and respond to the course of events is significantly limited.

PLEASE READ THIS HANDBOOK CAREFULLY AND THOROUGHLY.

What is the CNFA?

The Coalition for a Nuclear Free Australia, formed in June 1981, is a national alliance of over 85 trade unions, environmental, peace, church, aboriginal, and womens' groups, committed to the idea of a Nuclear Free Australia where uranium mining, nuclear weapons and all other stages of the nuclear fuel cycle are prohibited.

The CNFA works towards an alternative economic strategy involving energy conservation, the development of environmentally acceptable renewable energy sources, and the creation of small scale, decentralised socially responsible industry.

The CNFA held its first national direct action, an occupation of the Honeymoon Uranium Mine site in S.A. in June 1982. This was followed by the Blockade of Roxby Downs in August 1983 and a national campaign to boycott BP — part owners of the Roxby mines.

The CNFA is committed to the concept of power sharing and consensus. All decisions of the national conference are made by consensus and the CNFA Secretariat is rotated amongst the participating organisations. The Secretariat is the co-ordinating body for the Coalition facilitating the sharing of information between organisations, co-ordinating, lobbying and media activities at a national level and arranging the twice yearly national conference.

The Secretariat is currently located at the Campaign Against Nuclear Energy (SA), 291 Morphett St. Adelaide.

CAMPAIGN AIMS

To create a nuclear free Australia, we must work in many ways, in many places. The organisations affiliated to the C.N.F.A. are involved in a variety of activities: education work, projects, submissions to government, lobbying, rallies and direct actions. The overall direction of these activities are defined as the C.N.F.A. campaign aims, which are as follows.

1. To stop uranium mining in Australia, using Roxby as the focus.
2. To strengthen the Australian anti-nuclear peace and disarmament movement by emphasising the link between uranium mining and the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to increase our contacts with the movement internationally.
3. To encourage the development and implementation of an alternative economic strategy for Australia which rejects reliance on mineral resources and exposes present government and corporate sponsored myths about the economics and job potential of uranium mining.
4. To raise public awareness of the risks of the nuclear fuel cycle, starting with uranium mining.
5 To join with and activate trade union anti-nuclear lobbies to maintain and act upon policies on uranium mining and exports, and to further strengthen the anti-uranium policies of individual unions.

6. To encourage understanding of landrights in relation to Roxby Downs and solidarity with the Kokatha people.

BLOCKADE AIMS

The blockade is part of the campaign for a nuclear free Australia. An important lesson from previous blockades is that not everything can be addressed by a blockade. For instance, effective public education is not easily achieved in a direct action when the media presents distorted images of the event and the issues. Therefore, the blockade has specific aims, which are as follows.

1. To hinder and frustrate the production schedule and pilot plant.
2. To delay completion of the feasibility study beyond the scheduled date of December 1984 (as specified in the Indenture.)
3. To cause political embarrassment to the State and Federal governments for their uranium stances.
4. To encourage maximum collective civil disobedience and non-compliance with political laws.

GUIDELINES

There is no co-ordinating group that will veto actions by affinity groups. Affinity groups have autonomy to plan and decide their actions. However, there are guidelines to be taken into consideration when developing and deciding actions.

1. Respect for life and the environment — minimising our impact on the environment.
2. Respect for and consultation with the Kokatha people.
3. In blockading Roxby we are committed to non-violent actions and reactions, for reasons of both principle and pragmatism. However, Roxby Downs is a place of violence. Our attempts to close it will be met with the power of the State — the police force. There is no guaranteeing how members of the police force will act, individually, in terms of force.
4. Property that is part of the nuclear industry threatens life. If property destruction is going to take place it shall be carried out in a spirit of creative affirmation of life and not one of vandalism. Persons carrying out such acts of property destruction need to be aware of the risks involved and take responsibility for their actions.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

The Coalition for a Nuclear Free Australia has chosen to use Civil Disobedience as a tactic during the 1984 Roxby Blockade. We understand Civil Disobedience to involve the following features:

1. A deliberate violation of an accepted law.
2. Has limited ends: to change a law or policy (although this may be as part of a campaign for much broader social change.)
3. Is a public act, both in terms of the action and its purpose.

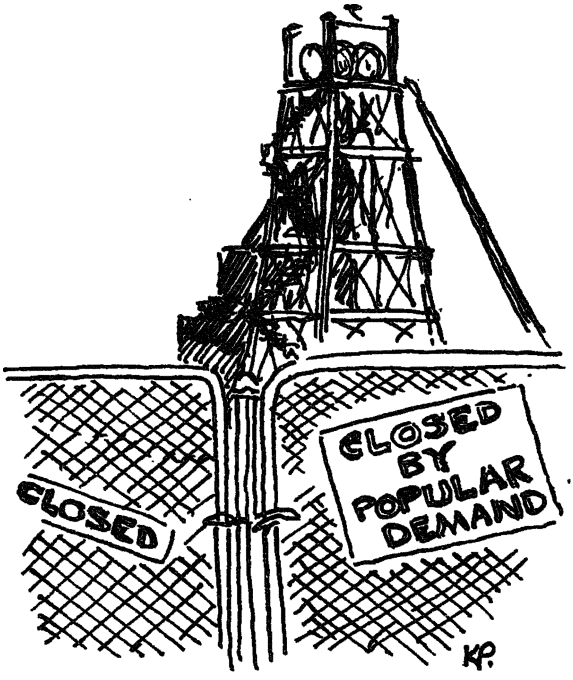
4. Involves accepting the consequences for the action: participants are clear in their deliberate breaking of the law, and are prepared to accept the consequences for that action.
5. Involves an analysis which recognises that power is not just a commodity which is possessed by institutions such as the military, major corporations or governments. Rather, power is seen as a dynamic social reltionship open to change. By acquiesing to those institutions, we accept their power over us, by challenging them, we can weaken their power and assert our own.

Civil Disobedience at Roxby.

The Coalition believes that use of Civil Disobedience at Roxby will have the following effects:

1. Highlight the role of the State and the extent of support it provides for the nuclear industry. It will show the preparedness of the government to use its laws to repress political opposition to its policies, and to protect the nuclear industry.
2. Spread information about uranium and the nuclear industry, and why we oppose it, through both the work of the media collective, and our ability to use the legal system to express such opposition.
3. Increase the social cost to the government for its support of the industry by exposing the true role of the police force: as protectors of property, not keepers of the peace.

4. Increase the financial cost to the government and the industry by our very presence and protest, to the extent that both government and the corporations will have to take such costs into account when determining the viability of such operations.
5. Inspire others to become active in the anti-nuclear movement.



WORKING TOGETHER

Opposition to the nuclear industry brings together all sorts of people. We need to recognise that there are fundamental differences amongst us, which cannot be ignored or swept away but must be confronted and acknowledged so that we may learn to understand what makes us different and learn to accept each other without fear.

The organisation of society is fragmented with social relations that exploit and oppress people. The relations between women and men, homosexuals and heterosexuals, black and white, old and young, have a history of conflict. Each have generated movements of people fighting to change the structures and practices that perpetuate their oppression. This history and these practices influence the anti-nuclear movement in many ways.

Feminism has a very obvious impact. The number of women very active within the anti-nuclear movement, and the modes of organisation such as collectivity+consensus are very much influenced by the autonomous women's movement and reflect in part shared goals in politics which seek to empower people.

The anti-nuclear movement which uses these modes, and also explicitly attempts to analyse power and oppression, makes it more accessible for people traditionally marginalized and excluded to be involved. Thus for instance, there are many

lesbians and homosexual men active within the movement.

The presence of lesbians, homosexual men does not mean that the myths and stereotypes, so commonly the basis of fear and divisiveness between us, have disolved. It is incorrect to assume that because lesbian and homosexual men are involved that practices of oppression are not. There is exploitation, fear and denegration within the anti-nuclear movement.

Likewise to date there is a notable absence of different racial groups. The anti-nuclear movement is overwhelming white and english speaking. Working with Aboriginal organisations on specifics occurs, however there is not much of an overlap of involvement of Aboriginal people in the autonomous black movement and the anti-nuclear movement. The inherent racism in each of us is partly responsible for their absence. Our history of white invasion and genocide of Aboriginals, reflected in our individual behaviour, though our through our assumptions, our lack of recognition, failure to listen and our fear.

To work together most effectively we must rid ourselves of destructive forms of behaviour, which perpetuate oppression. We need to replace them with practices that build trust, such as listening to each other. Learning to genuinely accept each other by understanding and acknowledging the differences between us is crucial in building a movement strong enough to oppose the nuclear industry. We do not want unanimity or sameness,

but we need solidarity and common bonds, that allows us to work together creatively and effectively.

Only this way can we combine our opposition to the nuclear industry which threatens all of us.

COLLECTIVITY

Central to the struggle against the nuclear industry is the struggle for new forms of organisation which empower and value people. The feeling of powerlessness and fragmentation of people is part of the stranglehold of the nuclear industry. Hierarchies, competition and individualism are fundamental mechanisms in which people are distanced from participation in decisions and consequently from exercising power over their lives. Thus to stop the violence, social fragmentation and destruction implicit in the nuclear mentality we must create egalitarian and democratic practises.

The development of collectives which do not rely on leaders but seek to empower the individuals and the group through the sharing of skills and decisions is fundamental to the organization of this blockade and of the CNFA. Decisions which are made with the participation and full knowledge of the group generate collective purpose and solidarity. It is also a recognition that our combined energies are more effective than isolated individual actions.

Collective actions demand shared responsibility from the group. Acknowledging our individual responsibility to the group, as well as to our friends

and ourselves, is important in building and maintaining the movement to stop the nuclear industry. It also lays the foundation for changed social relations.

Thus how we participate, how we approach tasks, and howe we relate to each other are considerations for all Blockaders.

CONSENSUS

The use of consensus decision-making is crucial to the development of collectivity. Consensus is the process by which the entire group comes to an agreement. The ideas and input of all participants are gathered and synthesized to arrive at a final decision agreeable and workable to all. Through consensus we are working to achieve better solutions and to promote the growth of community and trust.

CONSENSUS PROCESS. The stages of the process are approximately:

— Proposal stated. Time limit on discussion set.
— Questions of clarification.
— Information sharing, discussion.
— Differences as well as agreements encouraged and reflected back to the group by the facilitator.
— Modifications to proposal emerge.
— Creation of new proposal based on ideas raised in discussion.
— If all consent to decision (conditionally, or even if it's not not everyone's first choice) then consensus is reached.

— If no agreement and the meeting is divided, the facilitator suggests procedures. See below.

CONDITIONS FOR CONSENSUS.

— The group understands the process and agrees to it.
— Requires facilitators with both flexibility and firmness.
— The group has a fairly high degree of shared commitment and philosophy.
— People in the group have some commitment to the continuation of the group rather than just to personal agendas.
— Assumption that everyone has something to say.

CONSENSUS IS NOT UNANIMITY.

IF THE MEETING CANNOT REACH CONSENSUS.

1. If one or two people disagree with the rest:
   — Make sure they are listened to carefully.
   — Ask if they are prepared to block consensus.
   — Will they allow the group to go ahead if:
      - They do not have to work on the task.
      - Their objections are noted.
      - The decision does not set a precedent.
      - The group tests the decision for a trial period.
2. If the meeting is evenly divided:
   — Meet in small groups perhaps for spokes meeting later.
   — Call for short silence for reflection.

— Ask those who feel strongly to come up with another proposal.
— Suggest another time for the group to meet to review the issue but first clearly state where the discussion has gone.
— A short break, rearranging seating, temporarily shelving the proposal, starting a new issue, can bring the sense of unity necessary for the discussion.

WHAT IS A FACILITATOR?

— Helps the group to accomplish its goals.
— Responsibility is to the group and its work rather than to individuals in the group.
— Makes no decisions for the group.
— Has a fairly detached attitude to the issue.
— Makes suggestions for the smooth running of the meeting (e.g. breaking into small groups, silences, games, etc.).
— Indicates order of speakers.
— Makes sure that people don't get interrupted, don't go on too long or speak off the point.
— Needs to be flexible, tactful and firm.
— Reflects back to the group the facilitator's feelings about where the group is in discussion.
— Indicates when he/she is 'stepping out of the facilitator's role' and participating in discussion. If this seems to be happening too often the facilitator should step aside altogether.
— Helps the group 'prioritize' the agenda and set time limits for each item.

— Tests for consensus having first re-stated any proposal.
— Needs to have a clear head and a 'stout heart' and lots of support in difficult meetings.

EVERYONE IN THE GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FACILITATION PROCESS.

MEETING PARTICIPATION

Many of the problems we run into in anti-nuclear groups are those of domination within the movement.

People join a social change movement in order to alleviate an external problem. Too often we are confronted with the same kinds of behaviour we find in our everyday lives. We're all too often stifled by heavy-handed authority: bosses at work, parents or spouse at home and teachers at school.

People want not to be accepted in these groups but also to make a contribution and be active participants. In order to work successfully to change things we must also pay attention to our own behaviour. More often than not, men are the ones dominating group activity. Such behaviour is therefore termed a 'masculine behaviour pattern' not because women never act that way, but because it is generally men who do it.

Here are some specific ways we can be responsible to ourselves and others in groups:

Not interrupting people who are speaking. We can even leave space after each speaker, counting to five before speaking.

Becoming a good listener. Good listening is as

important as good speaking. It's important not to withdraw when not speaking; good listening is active participation.

Getting and giving support. We can help each other be aware of and interrupt patterns of domination. It is important that men emotionally support and challenge each other's sexism, rather than asking women to do so. This will allow women more space to break out of their own conditioned role of looking after men's needs while ignoring their own.

Not giving answers and solutions. We can give our opinions in a manner which says we believe our ideas to be valuable, but no more important than others' ideas.

Not putting others down. We need to check ourselves when we're about to attack or 'one-up' another. We can ask ourselves, 'Why am I doing this? What am I feeling? What do I need?'

Interrupting others' oppressive behaviour. We should take responsibility for interrupting a person who is exhibiting behaviour which is oppressive to others.

The following are some of the more common problems to become aware of:

Hogging the show. Talking too much, too long and too loud.

Problem solver. Continually giving the answer or solution before others have had much chance to contribute.

Speaking in capital letters. Giving one's own solutions or opinions as the final words on the

subject, often aggravated by tone of voice and body posture.

Defensiveness. Responding to every contrary opinion as though it were a personal attack.

Nitpicking. Pointing out minor flaws in statements of others and stating the exception to every generality.

Restating. Especially what has just been said by a non-dominant person.

Attention-seeking. Using all sorts of dramatics to get the spotlight.

Task and content focus. To the exclusion of nurturing inditention to process and form.

Putdowns and one-up-manship. 'I used to believe that, but now . . .' or 'How can you possibly say that . . .?'

Negativism. Finding something wrong or problematical in everything.

Focus transfer. Transferring the focus of the discussion to one's own pet issues in order to give one's own pet raps.

Residual office holder. Hanging on to formal powerful positions.

Self-listening. Formulating a response after the first few sentences, not listening to anything from that point and leaping in at the first pause.

Inflexibility and dogmatism. Taking a last stand for one's position on even minor items.

Avoiding acknowledging personal conflict. Intellectualizing, withdrawing into passivity or making

jokes when it's time to share personal feelings.

Condescension and paternalism. 'Now, do any women have something to add?'

Being 'on the make'. Using sexuality to manipulate people.

Seeking attention and support from women while competing with men.

Running the show. Continually taking charge of tasks before others have a chance to volunteer.

Withholding information. Protectively storing key information for one's own use and benefit.

Speaking for others. 'A lot of us think that we should . . .' or 'What so and so really meant was . . .'

The full wealth of knowledge and skills is severely limited by such behaviour. Women and men who are less assertive than others or who don't feel comfortable participating in a competitive atmosphere are, in effect, cut off from the interchange of experience and ideas.

If sexism isn't ended within social change groups there can't be a movement for real social change. Not only will the movement flounder amidst divisiveness, but the crucial issue of liberation from sex oppression will not be dealt with. Any change of society which does not include the freeing of women and men from oppressive sex role conditioning, from subtle as well as blatant forms of male supremacy, is incomplete.

This piece is abridged from an article by Bill Moyers of the Movement for a New Society.

BLOCKADE ORGANISATION

ROLLING BLOCKADE

A rolling blockade has been planned to allow groups to come and go in a coherent and co-ordinated manner. The staggering of participation in the blockade is intended to hinder and frustrate the project for longer.

Within the C.N.F.A. it is planned to allocate different times for each State to encourage the bulk of their people to attend the blockade. It is hoped to ensure that there are significant numbers at Roxby for at least six weeks. It begins on August 19, which coincides with the beginning of the Victorian school holidays; therefore, Victorians will begin the blockade. The arrangement of other States has not yet been finalised. Blockaders are requested to check with State C.N.F.A. groups for proposed time of participation. These times are only suggestions, and do not preclude affinity groups from participating at times convenient to them. However, co-ordinated transport is most likely to be available at allocated times.

The rolling blockade means that in the worst case wherein most of the first group were arrested, leaving inadequate numbers to effectively blockade, then a second wave of blockaders would start the Blockade again.

THE BASE CAMP

There will be only one camp which will be outside the lease area. Affinity groups can sleep away from

the Base Camp. There will be a women's space within the Base Camp. Also affinity groups involved in actions inside the lease may spend several days away from the Base Camp.

The Base Camp will provde a central place for information, services, communications and organisation. The connections group, service groups and an information board will be located at the Base Camp. Decision-making and meetings will also occur there. Preparations and Tactics will be available at the Base Camp for individuals and affinity groups who did not do preparation and tactics prior to their arrival.

WOMEN'S SPACE

At the 1984 Roxby Blockade base camp, there will be an area designated as a women's space. Women's affinity groups are welcome to camp in this area and any women attending the blockade are welcome to visit the women's camp.

Why have a women's space?

Our society shapes the experience of men and women differently. All women are oppressed in our society as women. Thus our experience of the world is fundamentally different from the experience of men. It is this fact that has led women to organise in autonomous women's groups. In these groups we have named our experience, we have looked at the world from our point of view rather than from the dominant patriarchal view inculcated in us all. Thus we have come to oppose male violence as it is directed

at us, including nuclear arms proliferation and indeed the danger to our lives of the nuclear industry. Thus we have come to oppose capitalist exploitation of all people in the race for profit. Many other people have reached these conclusions through exploring their oppression.

We are all here to oppose South Australia mining and exporting uranium. We are a coalition of many peoples. Women are an important part of that coalition. Both in Australia and overseas women have played a vital part in the anti-nuclear movement. The opinions and feelings of women, as workers, as thinkers are being heard. Women have organised effectively in autonomous groups empowering ourselves to act against the nuclear mentality. It is the sharing of our collective knowledge and the mobilisation of our collective energy that has enabled us to work for our visions.

DECISION-MAKING

Decisions at the Blockade will be made by the process of consensus (see Consensus section). The procedure will be based on affinity groups. Affinity groups will be autonomous in terms of decision-making about actions. However, affinity groups will need to inform the connections group of planned actions, for practical purposes, and safety (legal support, transport, etc.). Decisions that affect the whole blockade will be made in Spokes meetings (see Definition of Terms).

GENERAL MEETINGS are for INFORMATION SHARING ONLY. It will be most efficient for

SINGING FOR OUR LIVES

WORDS & MUSIC BY HOLLIE NEAR

WE ARE A GENTLE ANGRY PEOPLE
AND WE ARE SINGING, SINGING
FOR OUR LIVES...

WE ARE AN ANTI-NUCLEAR
PEOPLE...

WE ARE A LAND OF MANY
COLOURS...

WE ARE YOUNG AND OLD TOGETHER..

WE ARE GAY AND STRAIGHT
TOGETHER..

WE ARE A GENTLE, LOVING
PEOPLE
AND WE ARE SINGING, SINGING
FOR OUR
LIVES....

proposals concerning the whole blockade to be written on information board and read at General Meetings; however, General Meetings will only be used for notification and clarification, not discussion.

SUMMARY: Affinity Groups and Spokes meetings will make decisions.

CONNECTIONS GROUP

- The Connections Group will consist of no more than 10 people from C.N.F.A. affiliated organisations involved in the organistion of the blockade. Members of this group will rotate in order to share responsibility for the tasks.
- While together the group will form an affinity group, and make decisions like other affinity groups and send spokes to spokes meetings.
- Change of connections group members will occur with one day overlap of out-going members.
- The role of connections group is:
  - Communications internal/external.
  - Information sharing.
  - Organisation and co-ordination of service groups.
  - Police liaison.

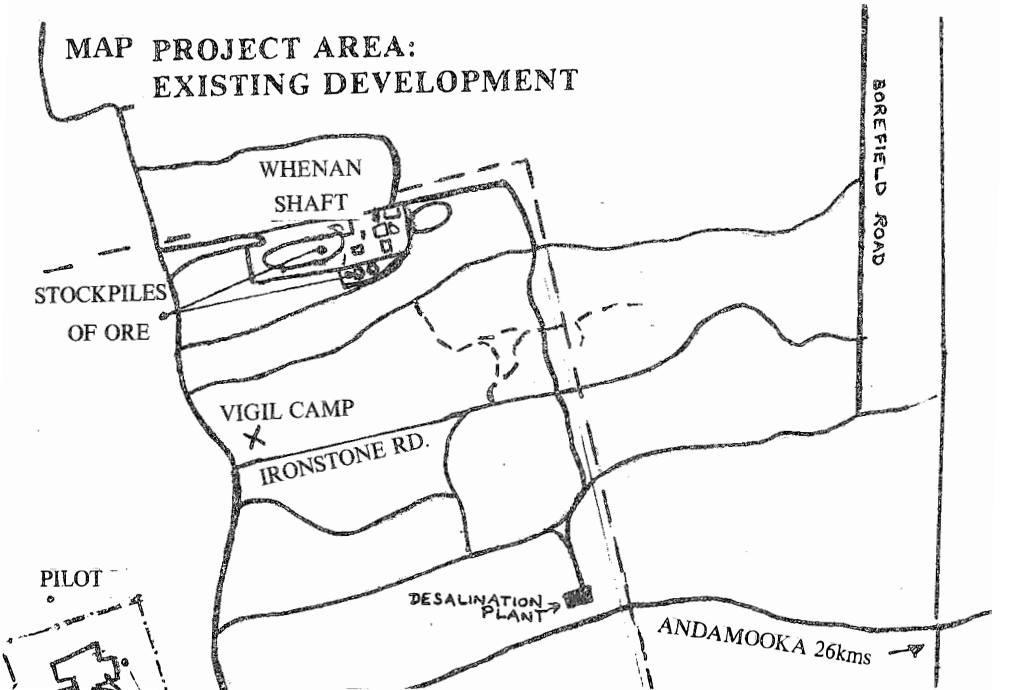
SERVICE GROUPS

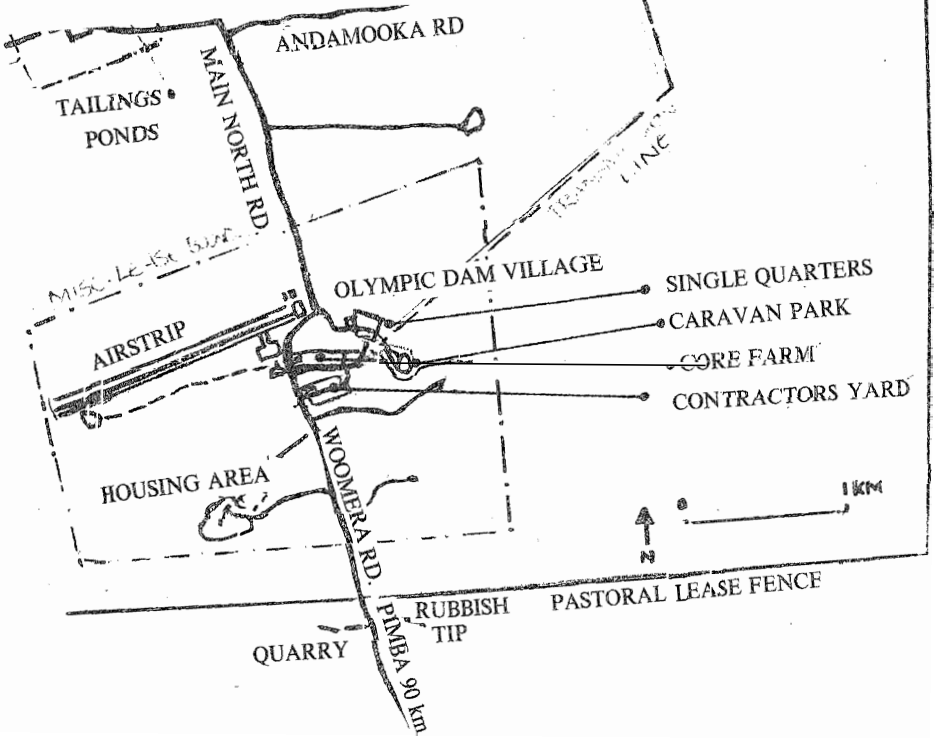
Service Groups are collections of people who take responsibility for the essential tasks at the Blockade. These tasks are such things as; jail support, legal support, medical, transport, water, child-care, media, preparation and tactics. These

services will be located in the Base Camp.

People who want to be involved in the Blockade but do not wish to be involved in actions are encouraged to be in a service group. People with skills are also welcomed.

Service Groups are not Affinity Groups. People involved in services will participate in decision-making via their Affinity Groups.


MAP PROJECT AREA:
EXISTING DEVELOPMENT
WHENAN
SHAFT
STOCKPILES
OF ORE
VIGIL CAMP
IRONSTONE RD.
BOREFIELD ROAD
PILOT
DESALINATION
PLANT
ANDAMOOKA 26kms


ANDAMOOKA RD
TAILINGS PONDS
MAIN NORTH RD.
TRANSMISSION LINE
MISC. LEASE
OLYMPIC DAM VILLAGE
SINGLE QUARTERS
CARAVAN PARK
AIRSTRIP
CORE FARM
CONTRACTORS YARD
WOOMERA RD.
HOUSING AREA
1KM
N
PASTORAL LEASE FENCE
RUBBISH TIP
QUARRY
PIMBA 90 km

PREPARATION AND TACTICS

1. Education about the history of the Project and why the action is happening.
2. Information about the layout of the Project, the country itself and what to expect.
3. Ensure that everyone is clear about the decision-making process, and that everyone is willing to participate in that process.
4. Clarify the aims and objectives of the Blockade, and explain the Guidelines for Action.
5. Discuss the concepts of non-violence and civil disobedience.
6. Explain the concept of consensus decision-making, and practise using it.
7. Build Affinity Groups through activity.

All States will be organising Blockade Training sessions: undertake training as soon as possible so as to build your group before the Blockade.

All blockaders need to attend the Blockade Preparation workshops before going to Roxby Downs. These workshops run for two days.

Preparations and tactics will be held at the Base Camp for people who have not participated in them before.

TRANSPORT

Affinity Groups are responsible for organising their transport to and from Roxby. However, each State is co-ordinating collective transport; contact your State blockade organisers for details.

CANE S.A. will likely be organising a bus between Adelaide and Roxby, to run regularly and cheaply. Early bookings would assist in organising.

Public Transport Port Augusta is also available. STATELINER bus leaves Adelaide Friday and Sunday 2.45 p.m. and arrives at OLYMPIC DAM (Roxby) late that night. Returns from Olympic Dam Friday and Sunday 12.20 a.m. Cost of return ticket $69.00. Concessions are available.

The road conditions to Roxby are generally good —a sealed surface to Woomera and a 90 km dirt and gravel road to Roxby from Woomera. Your vehicles need to be in reasonably good condition, not only for safety, but also to avoid unnecessary complications such as car defects by police. Petrol is available from Woomera and Andamooka, a small quantity of petrol carried may be useful for emergency, but generally petrol is available.

Bicycles. The 'Peaceful Pedal Protest' will be departing from Adelaide's Parliament House August 19 and riding the 800 km to Roxby over two weeks. Contact Shandor or Ian on (08) 352 2305 or write to CANE.

At Roxby transport into the lease area is likely to be only our feet, as it is likely vehicular access will be prevented. If you want to take an old bicycle it may be very useful, as they may be allowed into the lease area. Transport between Andamooka jail and the Base Camp will be organised.

ROXBY DOWNS

BACKGROUND TO ROXBY

The Olympic Dam Mine, more commonly known as Roxby Downs, contains a rich deposit of uranium, copper, gold and other rare minerals.

- 1975 First discovered by Western Mining Co. (WMC).
- 1979 WMC and British Petroleum (BP) signed a Joint Venture Agreement — 51% WMC 49% BP. Establishment of a joint company, Roxby Management Services (RMS) directly responsible for the Roxby Project.
- 1979 State Liberal Party wins elections and begins negotiating the Indenture Agreement with the Joint Venturers. This agreement outlines the obligations of the Government and the Co. in the project.
- 1981 Indenture Bill defeated in Legislative Council. The following day Norm Foster resigned from the ALP. The bill was resubmitted and passed when Norm Foster crossed the floor giving the Liberals the numbers needed to approve the bill.
- July 1982 The 'Hogg' Amendment was added to ALP's uranium policy at National Conference allowing uranium to be mined "incidentally" to other minerals.
- Nov. Draft Environmental Impact Statement is presented to government without plans for Pilot Plant, inadequate coverage of

workers' health and no anthropological report.

- Mar. 1983 — ALP wins federal elections. Roxby able to continue under Hogg Amendment.
- June — The E.I.S. is passed by State Labor government with 'Special Conditions' attached to go-ahead, where basically the Joint Venturers agree to give their 'best endeavours' in areas of workers' health and consultation with Kokatha people. Thus the E.I.S. is accepted by government without completing negotiations with the Kokatha.
- Aug. — The traditional landowners, the Kokatha, blockaded north of Roxby Downs at Cane Grass Swamp.
- Aug. — Nine day blockade at Roxby Downs organised by the CNFA.
- Sept. — Permanent vigil is set up on Ironstone Road near Whenan Shaft.
- Dec. — The second anthropological report for Roxby is completed by Prof. Berndt. Sacred sites are recognised; however, the only recommendations taken up by government are to set up another committee, comprising Joint Venturers, government and Kokatha, which by June 1984, has still not met. The government has not commented on the Berndt report publicly.

- 1984 May — The first shipment of ore concentrate from Roxby leaves Port Adelaide, a Nuclear Free Zone, for Finland. There were 60 arrests in protest blockades at Port Adelaide. One container leaked and several were incorrectly labelled.
- May — ASTEC Inquiries report on Australia's involvement in the nuclear fuel cycle is released. It recommends further development of the nuclear industry to include enrichment and reprocessing in Australia. The report is a quasi-scientific endorseent and justification for the Hawke line.
- June — State ALP conventions do not give total support for pro-uranium policy, but accepts a contradictory position that supports Roxby — the largest uranium mine — while acknowledging the hazards of uranium mining and its links to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- July — South Australia's regulations covering the transportation of radioactive substances take effect. Regulations inadequate: No notification of transport times and routs of shipments; Transport workers not provided with monitoring devices or health checks.

THE MINE IS NOT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION — IT WILL NOT BE.

KOKATHA

The land on which the Roxby Downs mine and associated facilities are situated is traditionally owned by the Kokatha people. The violence of the nuclear industry begins with the destruction of the environment. The resulting interference and further destruction of the traditional owners' access and relationship to their land is a violence that reflects the basis of white invasion. The problems caused to the Kokatha people by Roxby Management Services must not be continued, or added to, by us. Therefore there are certain things we must observe:

1. There are sites of significance throughout the region and so as not to disturb them further, we are requested to remain on existing roads and tracks as much as possible. [redacted]

2. We must respect and take personal care and responsibility for the environment (see Environment section.)
3. The Kokatha Peoples' Committee itself does not object to white people wearing landrights colours. However, it is worth noting that many Aboriginal organisations and individuals do object to white people using their symbols.

THE ENVIRONMENT

This region has suffered from grazing and the establishment of the mine works and settlement. It is important to recognise the consequent delicacy of this environment and to minimize our impact on the present eco-system. Taking care of the environment is an integral part of our protest against the threat the nuclear industry poses to the Planet, and the specific violence committed by R.M.S. on this land.

The characteristics of the landscape are rolling sand dunes and interdunal corridors (Swales). The dune slopes carry grass and scrub land, with taller woodlands occurring on the dune ridges. Most common species are mulgas, native pine, bullock bush, canegrass, tussock grass and salt bush in the swales.

Firewood

Firewood will be supplied for the main cooking fires at Base Camp, but not for the Blockade at large. There are dead branches, dry twigs and grasses, etc. occurring throughout the sand dunes, however, the impact of hundreds of campfires will quickly deplete this resource. Affinity Groups are therefore requested to take portable liquid or gas-fuelled stoves for cooking, and/or relying on pre-cooked or dry foods where possible.

Toilets

There will be bush toilets organised around Base Camp area. Outside the Base Camp area, Blockaders should take care that shit holes are at

least 1 foot deep and filled in completely after each use. Picking of wildflowers, interference with animal and bird life and other damage to the environment is, needless to say, discouraged.

Daytime temperatures will be warm, with an average range of 23°C to 27°C. Night time temperatures will be cold, 6°C to 9°C. It is unlikely that rain will be a problem, although heavy windswept storms have been known. Sand and dust storms are more common.

PRACTICALITIES

Affinity Groups are responsible for their own food, shelter, transport, child-care, and needs of their disabled members. There will be some services (see Service Groups) provided at the base camp, but it is stressed that Affinity Groups be a self-reliant as possible as it is the only way the blockade will be able to function.

Affinity Groups need to be prepared to travel light, with only essentials when involved with actions in the lease area. It is unlikely that there will be vehicular access to the area and therefore it will necessitate blockaders carrying food, water supplies and sleeping equipment on their backs. Suggestions for this are — to be fit; space blankets instead of tents for sleeping; water could be carried in wine bladders; comfortable walking shoes; good sandshoes may be better than walking boots (personal preference).

Affinity Groups will be able to have more equipment while at the Base Camp. Tents and large water containers can be left in the Base Camp area, while blockaders are in the lease area.

Personal Gear

The flies and sandstorms are regular incessant problems: be prepared. Hats and fly nets (available from most disposal/camping stores and scout shops) are essential. Cotton scarves to cover nose and mouth in sand storms are recommended. Personal gear should include adequate but light sun-protective clothing for day time and a warm jacket or coat for the night, which will be cool to cold.

A warm sleeping bag and ground sheet (sand being quite comfortable but cold).

Torch with spare batteries and globes. Waterproof matches and candles, maybe.

Boots or shoes and water bag/bottle could be your most important equipment. Your water should be 500 ml to 1 litre so as to be easily attached to your body.

Having got your equipment into your rucksack, you could include the following: Camera — for arrest photos, etc.; Music Instrument, etc.; Special Food Treats, etc. to keep spirits up.

THINGS THAT COULD DETRACT FROM THE BLOCKADE

The blockade is a direct action agains the nuclear industry and governments that support it. There are many issues involved. It is important that we do not lose our clarity and purpose, and that we do not leave ourselves vulnerable.

Recreational drugs, such as alcohol and dope are not encouraged for legal safety, but also because it will be important to keep a clear head for dealing with the diverse and intense situations that will be happening. Drug busts as well as car defects are to be avoided for their inconvenience.

We also need to protect ourselves from possible frame-up situations, which would confuse the issues of the blockade as well as generate adverse publicity. Explosives are used in the mine project, R.M.S. need be the only ones using them, we will dismantle their project — it's more in keeping with our recycling and job generating politics.

LEGALITIES

STRATEGY

Civil Disobedience actions entail an awareness of conflict with the law and an acceptance of the legal consequences — e.g. arrest and prosecution. Civil Disobedience is most powerful when its practitioners voluntarily accept legal and other consequences without defensiveness, without attempts to mitigate or avoid consequences and without fear.

STATUS OF THE LAND

R.M.S. (Western Mining and B.P.) hold exploration licences over the Roxby Downs Pastoral Lease which covers expropriated Aboriginal land. R.M.S. also holds Miscellaneous Purpose Leases over the area of its current operations — i.e. Whenan Shaft, pilot plant and core farm. These lease areas are fenced, guarded and police will arrest anyone found here for being 'unlawfully on premises'. However, R.M.S. has no legal power to prevent entry to the pastoral lease/exploration licence area. But once the feasibility study is completed, and the mine formally approved, R.M.S. will receive a 'Special Mining Lease'. The government will then have a legal obligation to keep everyone else out of the area.

POSSIBLE OFFENCES

In S.A. there is no difference between civil and criminal offences. All offences result in a criminal record. Possible offences which may be used against us are:

Failing to cease loitering.
Obstructing a public place.
Failing to give correct name and address.
Disorderly conduct.
Offensive language. Offensive weapon.
Hinder police. Resist arrest.
Assault police. Common assault.
Illegal interference with a motor vehicle.
Unlawfully on premises.

Note: Penalties vary from $50 and 3 months for loitering up to 3 years for assault. At the 1983 Blockade those convicted for loitering were fined $30. Being unlawfully on premises has a new maximum penalty of $2,000 or 12 months.

Some of these offences are easily committed, e.g. asking an officer for his number can sometimes be 'hindering'; touching a car can be 'illegal interference'. Arrest watching is very important to prevent false convictions for these offences.

— Police also have a common law power to arrest for a continuing 'breach of the peace' (ha ha!).
— Under the Road Traffic Act, police can stop and question drivers and give them reasonable directions which must be obeyed.
— Offences of 'injuring a mine' or breaking and entering carry penalties of up to 7 years under the Criminal Law Consolidation Act.

ARREST

Arrest is a potentially violent situation so it is important to remain calm and relaxed. Some useful points to remember:

- Breathe deeply and look around you, taking in the surroundings and useful information like the arresting officer's number.
- Don't make sudden movements. Be aware that any sudden or rapid movement by a Blockader during an arrest situation is likely to be noticed by the media and could be portrayed as 'violence'.
- Police do not react positively at being shouted at, or being asked their number, especially in an arrest situation.
- Be prepared to handle verbal aggression and provocation without retaliation.

A lawful arrest consists of words indicating that you are under arrest and a touching of the arrested person, or that person submitting by going with the arresting officer.

THE POLICE

Police officers are individuals, as well as a uniformed army. Recognise this, be courteous and take an interest in them as individual people whenever you have the opportunity. Good liaison at all times, while not preventing confrontation, will make life easier and help dispel fears and misconceptions some police may hold about the Blockaders.

RESISTANCE

Active resistance during arrest is not advised because it dramatically increases the level of violence involved in the arrest. This usually has many adverse consequences. The question of whether passive resistance (e.g. going limp) is appropriate in the circumstances is for Affinity Groups to decide.

ARREST WATCHERS

At least one member of each Affinity Group should be prepared to act as an arrest watcher. The role of arrest watchers is to accurately record the details of all arrests that may occur, as observers and not participants. This is an important role, especially as unplanned or false arrests may occur.

Arrest watchers should:

1. Take photographs of any actual arrest.
2. Take photographs of the action.
3. Write down names and addresses of eye-witnesses and organise statements to be made.
4. Write down an account of the action and details of the arrest (forms will be provided).

YOUR RIGHTS UPON ARREST

1. You have an immediate right to be told what you are being arrested for, unless it is obvious to you.
2. You have a legal obligation to give your correct name and address.

3. Apart from (2), you have a right to refuse to answer all questions put to you by the police. Answer no questions, unless on specific legal advice.
4. You must be taken immediately to the nearest police station. This will be at Andamooka.

WITNESSES

If you observe any incident or arrest make sure that you write an account of what you saw and contact the legal group.

AT THE STATION

1. You will probably be 'frisked'.
2. You will have your possessions confiscated. If they try to take your glasses or belt, and you consider them to be necessary, you should object.
3. The police may attempt to question you about the offence.
4. You will be formally charged.
5. You will be then offered Police Bail.

IDENTIFICATION

The police have a broad power to forcibly take your fingerprints for identification purposes. If you have adequate identification when arrested, the finger-printing is an unnecessary intrusion and should be objected to.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ARREST

People under 18 years of age who are arrested will be separated and treated differently from other blockaders. The same laws apply but charges are heard in different courts and bail conditions are different.

POLICE BAIL

Bail will be offered by the police after arrestees are charged at Andamooka. Accepting bail on your own recognizance means that you promise to turn up in court, and bail will not cost you any money. If you refuse to accept bail, or if it is not offered to you, you will be kept in the cells until you are brought before a Magistrate.

BAIL SOLIDARITY

A collective decision to refuse bail highlights the personal commitment of blockaders and illustrates their unity of action. Bail solidarity also means that you save an extra trip back for the hearing.

IN COURT

PLEAS

The legal strategy involves an avoidance of technical legal defences, and so pleading guilty where an offence has been committed is considered appropriate. Legal guilt is not the same as a moral wrong. Pleading guilty acknowledges the blockader's conflict with the laws protecting the nuclear industry. Personal statements to the court explaining the reasons for the action are

encouraged because they effectively highlight the nuclear issue. If the Magistrate tries to suppress these statements, they can instead be made as part of your plea.

Before the Magistrate, you can plead guilty and have the matter finalised, or you can have it put off by asking for an adjournment or by pleading not guilty. If you are silent or say that you do not recognise the Court's authority, it will be interpreted as a 'not guilty' plea.

SELF REPRESENTATION

Self-representation in court for guilty pleas is a part of the legal strategy. By having representation the individual is alienated from the Court process and the right to make a statement is lost. However, lawyers will be available for anyone on serious or false charges.

PENALTIES

Serving penalties in jail, instead of paying fines imposed, can be politically effective if part of an organised jail solidarity action.

THE MEDIA

MEDIA COLLECTIVE

The media collective will be guided by the following policy:

1. We recognise that the aim of the Blockade is to frustrate and hinder mining at Roxby.
2. We aim to make the most of the media attention focussed on us but will not allow the media to manipulate us into media events.
3. We will decide what we want to say about uranium mining, prepare ourselves as best we can to do it, and will not be controlled by the angles the media want to take.
4. We will keep our media work in accord with our principles of accountability, collectivity, participation and rotation.

The media collective, of between 8 and 12 people, will be drawn from C.N.F.A. affiliates. The collective will consist of people with media skills. All regional groups are encouraged to undertake media skills training and to form collectives.

The media collective will work from the Media Tent, and blockaders are asked to recognise that this space is a work area.

THE MEDIA AND BLOCKADERS

Individual blockaders are encouraged to express their personal support of the blockade aims. Blockaders are also encouraged to direct the media

to the Media Collective for further discussion of the blockade and its developments. Blockaders are encouraged to be involved in regional media collectives, and to undertake media skills training.

MEDIA ANGLES

These are:

1. Uranium sales do not lead to a safer world, but rather, uranium sellers are like drug pushers.
2. All Australians have the right to work: uranium mining creates few jobs at great public expense.
3. Will Australia become a radioactive waste dump?

These issues will be developed further during training sessions. Blockaders are asked to consider referring to these during any media interviews. The media collective has agreed to highlight these concerns.

APPENDIX NURRUNGAR

Nurrungar, the Joint Defence Space Communications Station, was established in 1969. It is operated by the USA Airforce, with involvement of the CIA and other security agencies.

Nurrungar is a relay station for the following:

1. Program 647 satellites — early warning of Soviet missile launching and testing.
2. 'Big Bird' satellites — identification of Soviet missile silos and other targets.

3. 'Rhyolite' satellites — monitoring of Soviet and Chinese military communications and Australian internal/external communications.
4. 'Pyramider' satellites — secret communication links for overseas CIA agents.

Nurrungar is a back-up for Pine Gap: sharing and alternating functions. It will be critically important for the laser and particle beam satellite weapons now being developed.

Dr Desmond Ball: '. . . North-West Cape, Pine Gap and Nurrungar would be at the very top of the Soviet nuclear target lists.'

The consequences for South Australia of a nuclear attack on Nurrungar are likely to be catastrophic. The northerly wind, common for most of the year, would carry massive does of radioactive fallout to the Iron Triangle (Ports Pirie and Augusta and Whyalla), and a substantial dose to Adelaide.

It is ironic that a critically important part of the USA nuclear war fighting system, Nurrungar, is situated so close to a major source of the raw material for nuclear weapons — Roxby uranium mine.

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DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

CONNECTIONS GROUP: Consists of 10 people from organisations involved in preparations for the blockade. The group rotates its actual membership. It is responsible for the co-ordination of services, communications and police liaison.

- **Affinity Groups** — are small groups of 7 — 12 people who know each other well and who provide for their collective needs e.g. food, shelter, transport, emotional support. Undertaking Blockade Preparation weekends is an important way to build a solid and supportive affinity group. Affinity groups will form the backbone of the blockade and all people need to be in an affinity group.
- **General Meetings** held daily, they are to disseminate information and give reports. No decisions are made at general meetings. It is advisable that at least one person from each affinity group attend.
- **'Spokes'** — each affinity group selects a 'spoke ' to represent their view at spokes meetings. It is a role that should be rotated regularly. It is the responsibility of the 'spoke' also to relay information back to the affinity group.
- **Spokesmeetings** — these are the primary decision making meetings made up of 'spokes' from each affinity group. Meetings are open for observation but only spokes participate.
- **Facilitator** — a facilitator fills a role similar to a chair person but never directs the group without its consent. S/he helps the group decide what they want to accomplish and tries to help them carry it out. A good facilitator can make a potentially difficult meeting flow smoothly.
- **Proposals** — is a suggestion for group action. A number of proposals can be put to a meeting, discussed, modified, accepted or rejected.